

Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2017
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road

APPROVED MAY 9, 2017

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), Elizabeth Dudley, Michelle Shattuck (Newmarket), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Laurel Cox, Jim MacCartney, Suzanne Petersen

members absent: Deb McNelly (excused)

guests: Mary Ann Krebs (Durham), Emma Lord (NPS)

Meeting began at 7:05.

summary of motions:

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the FY 2016 agreement with SELT for FY2017 with minor changes for dates. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

presentation on invasive aquatic plants and animals by Amy Smagula, NHDES:

In the summer of 2016, large masses of aquatic vegetation were observed in the lower Piscassic in Newmarket. Two LRAC members and an aquatic plant specialist from NHDES toured the area by kayak, took photos and samples, and geo-referenced sampled locations. All photos and samples were identified as native NH species and the abundant growth was linked to the drought. The experience was a wake-up call that invasive species could take hold at any time.

Of the 14 species of invasive aquatic weeds present in New Hampshire, three are of special concern for potential to invade the Lamprey River.

- water chestnut: Has rugged, barbed seed pods that can attach to mammals and waterfowl and be transported to new sites. The pods are viable for up to 12 years. Unlike many other aquatic weeds, these plants do not spread by regeneration of plant fragments.
- variable milfoil: Has a green, fluffy, squirrel-tail appearance and grows 12 to 15 feet tall. Leaves look like bird feathers whorled around the stem.
- fan wort: Has opposite leaves and branches that result in a stem from a stem.
- * hydrilla: Not present in New Hampshire yet, but present in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. Grows up to 25 feet tall

and bulbs pass through waterfowl intact. The leaves are narrow and serrated.

The Lamprey is also susceptible to invasion by two exotic mollusks:

- Asian clam: Maximum length of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch with obviously ridged shell. They dig deep into sediment and might not be apparent until empty shells appear on the sediment surface. In places in the Merrimack River, they constitute 99% cover.
- Chinese mystery snail: Large and smelly and easily observed on the surface of rocks or on the bottom. These snails can turn the water cloudy and can cause gastroenteritis.

Invasives are more likely to be found in calm waters such as wetlands or impoundments; they are rare in high flow areas. If invasive species are suspected, note the exact location with a smart phone, tape, or a buoy. Take photos that include a ruler or standard sized object for scale or carefully collect a sample (making sure that no broken bits are released to the surrounding water), place in a wet paper towel in a plastic bag, and mail to NHDES. Always include the exact location.

approval of minutes from March 14, 2017:

Sharon Meeker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord Seconded. Minutes were approved with 9 yes votes and 3 abstentions.

financial report:

Year-to-date budget, bank statement, Chick & Dee-Dee sales, and land protection fund were reviewed. No unusual activity was noted. The bank statement showed a deposit of \$5000 awarded as a grant from NH Charitable Foundation.

SELT agreement:

Joe Foley spoke with SELT and both parties agreed to approve the 2016 agreement with updates to dates for FY 2107. FY 2018 will be modified to reflect the decreased level of funding available.

Dick Lord made a motion to approve the FY 2016 agreement with SELT for FY2017 with minor changes for dates. Preston Samuel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

outreach, recreation, and history workgroup update:

Notes were emailed with meeting materials and not reviewed in the meeting. Notes are attached at the end of the LRAC meeting minutes.

grants update:

- The NH Charitable Foundation approved the request for \$5000 to be used toward expenses related to the Route 87- Wadleigh Falls canoeing enhancement project.

- An application for \$1000 has been submitted to the American Canoe Association to be used toward expenses related to the Route 87-Wadleigh Falls canoeing enhancement project.
- An application for \$2500 has been submitted to Outdoor Nation / Paddle Nation for expenses related to increasing participation in paddling activities and for a kayak trailer in Epping.

town issues:

Lee:

- Lee Energy Committee is hosting the Energize 360 meeting on April 22 in the Lee Safety Building. It is being presented by the Seacoast Hub, a coalition of business, energy committees, and towns.
- A representative new to living along the river noted the presence of white foamy clumps on the water. Other members assured her that these are naturally occurring and apparently of no real concern.

Raymond:

- As a follow-up to concerns noted in March about snow dumps, the town agreed to put snow a bit farther from the river for recent spring storms. The topic will be discussed in greater detail for next winter.
- The Raymond triathlon will take place on September 9, 2017.

Durham/Newmarket:

- A representative from Newmarket noted concern about the proposed Eversource project to bury cable under Little Bay and what if any involvement LRAC has. The project is outside the purview of LRAC, so the project review workgroup decided to monitor the situation but stay out of the fray for now. The project review group is receiving updates from Eversource and is aware of activities from town groups.
- A potential representative from Durham was present. She did not note any questions or concerns at this time.

LRWA update:

- The group is seeking a new executive director and two candidates have been offered interviews.
- The pursuit of grants has triggered the need for a joint LRAC-LRWA meeting to detail the financial/fiscal responsibilities of LRAC, LRWA, and NPS and how to improve coordination. The meeting is scheduled for April 17, place to be determined. (Post-meeting note: The location will be Lee Safety Complex, 5:00 P.M.)

other:

- presentations at LRAC meetings: The group noted that the aquatic invasives presentation was helpful. When asked if other presentations on a more regular basis would be helpful, the consensus was positive.

- USA Springs: The Town of Nottingham has seized the property for unpaid back-taxes. This should effectively end the possibility of having a water bottling plant on this site.
- Water Works documentary: Premiere will air on Monday April 17th at 8:00 P.M. on NHPTV Prime and will then rerun throughout the month and will be available online. It will also be accompanied by a list of web resources.
- LAC workshop: The NHDES Rivers Program, in partnership with the New Hampshire Rivers Council, will be hosting a Local River Management Advisory Committee Workshop on Saturday, May 13 from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM at NHDES offices (29 Hazen Drive) in Concord. Preston Samuel will be attending, but all representatives who are interested are encouraged to attend.
- mass amphibian migration: Someone asked when the “big night” might be. According to the *Durham Friday Updates*, last weekend had ideal conditions. Efforts seem to be developing in this area to assist the salamanders and frogs that are trying to cross roads, similar to existing efforts in the southwestern part of New Hampshire. The majority of the species involved are associated with vernal pools and need to migrate sometimes long distances to reach the pools for breeding.
- FY 2018 budget: Jim MacCartney is in the process of developing the budget based largely on FY 2017 criteria but with some modifications. Two actions must occur before the LRAC can approve the budget, but approval needs to occur as quickly as possible afterward: 1. The US Congress must finalize the federal budget and 2. Jim must finalize the LRAC budget based on the federal budget. Jim assured the group that FY2017 revenue will be available for committee use regardless of what happens with the federal budget. After that, what will be will be.
- upcoming events:
 - vernal pools with ORHS, April 19
 - Lamprey River Canoe Race, Saturday, April 22, begins at Mary Blair Park
 - wildlife meeting, May 2, 9:00, office
 - outreach, rec, and history meeting, May 3, 10:00, office
 - LAC workshop, May 13, 10:30-2:00, NHDES in Concord
 - Herring Aid, Saturday, May 13, 10-noon, Macallen Dam, Newmarket

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Anne Lightbody seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47.

ATTACHMENTS:

Outreach, Recreation, & History Workgroup Meeting Notes

April 5, 2017

attending: Dick Lord, Sharon Meeker, Suzanne Petersen, Preston Samuel

Mendum's Pond dam signage:

NHDES Dam Bureau is on the job. They have gathered images and are consulting with the NH Historic Resources Bureau and a graphic designer. A draft will be shared with LRAC prior to printing for comments.

woody obstacles update:

LRAC was notified of a \$5000 grant from the NH Charitable Foundation to support the project. An application for \$1000 was submitted to the American Canoe Association. Award notices will be sent at the end of April.

Epping Paddling grant with Outdoor Nation:

A meeting was held with Epping Recreation and Seven Rivers Paddling. LRAC will apply for and manage the grant application for \$2500. The goal is to improve access for public paddling and address fears by parents that keep children from on-the-water activities by including parental participation in the planned activities. Epping will use the grant to help buy a kayak trailer and Seven Rivers will be reimbursed for staff time and boat rental. It was agreed that LRAC would contribute up to \$240 for a safety and rescue class at the Dover Indoor Pool. Notification of awards will occur in early May.

Lee trails:

Two trails still need to be mapped. Participation in the Strafford County Regional Planning trail mapping seems likely.

curriculum programs for schools:

Sharon will be the point of contact for coordination of the field trip with Mast Way School this spring. Outreach to new schools will be put on hold.

Small Grants:

With the receipt of the \$5000 grant from NHCF, the Small Grants budget is back to \$10,000. An invitation to town rec departments and historic associations was sent, but no response was received. A videographer has been contacted about a potential project on local brickmaking with hopeful prospects. The full committee will be asked to suggest projects or applicants.

Schoppmeyer Park:

A meeting was held recently. Dick Lord will serve on the town committee as a voting member except on issues pertaining to the expenditure of town funds. Preliminary plans include 2 stone benches, a picnic grove, a garden, and a kiosk. Access across the small inlet might be addressed with a float connected by ramps on both sides. This float would also be used for launching kayaks and canoes.

LRWA update:

A search is under way to find a new director. The water quality sampling coordinator will return again this summer. LRWA and LRAC need to improve communications and understand the roles and responsibilities of each side, especially with finances.

abutters' newsletter:

Abutters are the main line of defense in keeping the river functioning and clean. A suggestion was made some time ago that LRAC should pursue better outreach with these people. Several possibilities for a special abutters' newsletter were discussed. Creating the newsletter is straightforward, but creating and maintaining a mailing list is trickier.